

Traffic, Business and Housing

Traffic

The group contacted Derbyshire County Council regarding the speed problems through the village. The Council advised:

Double White Lines are not allowed where the driver's line of vision is clear. This is a directive from the Department of Transport over which the Council have no say.

Yellow Rumble Lines have already been investigated for the village. However, these lines are noisy for residents living close by to them and research shows that they are not effective in slowing traffic down in the long term.

Reduce Speed Limit to 30 mph. This is being investigated for all rural villages. However, if introduced the County Council feel it is unlikely to have any impact. However, the people of Peak Forest feel that it would have a positive impact and would like to have it implemented. Even if it is not possible, the current limit of 40 mph should be enforced.

Speed Cameras. We were advised that because the Police regularly patrol the A623 with their mobile speed camera unit, static speed cameras are not to be considered at this time.

Pegasus Crossing. The Council advised that because it is proposed that the Pennine Way Bridle path crosses the A623 at Church Lane continuing into Back Lane, they were considering putting in a crossing for riders. (A Pegasus crossing is the same as a Pelican crossing, but with the push button light control located further up the pole). This will obviously not have restricted use and members of the public will also be able to take advantage of this crossing. If the Pegasus Crossing is installed, then it is probable that the speed limit will also reduce to 30 mph at this time. Public consultation about the scheme ended in October 2003.

The group felt that the village could pursue existing traffic problems by:

- Continuing to push for static speed cameras.
- Lobbying the Police's mobile camera unit to concentrate on the 40 mph zone in the village, rather than the 60 mph zone outside the village.
- Investigating the possibility of a mini roundabout.
- Lobbying MP's to make changes at a national level, i.e. double white lines.
- Following up leads on 'Community DIY Radar' scheme.
- Implementing yellow zig-zag lines outside school.
- Painting white 'School' road markings on road.
- A nearby village school has a notice outside to say that the speed limit is 20mph when the lights are flashing. A similar scheme should be investigated for Peak Forest.
- Considering gateway features and properly designed traffic calming, hard landscape street furniture, signs, etc, in combination with 30 mph.



Car Parking

It was recognised that during the busy summer periods parking becomes a problem. Church Lane in particular becomes clogged up with visitor parking. It is understood that some years ago plans were in hand to create parking space in Church Lane utilising the grass verge area and providing nose to wall parking. Permission had been granted but the matter was not pursued. Perhaps something similar could be considered again, or failing that, a small strip of land adjacent to Church Lane might be bought from one of the landowners in the area.

Suggestions for taking this forward are:

- Investigating the possibility of marked parking bays on Church Lane and Back Lane.
- Consulting residents to identify usage of land for off road parking. For example the Recreation Ground, or other available land. The use of the Recreation Ground for parking may be looked upon unfavourably by others if there is a demand to use it for more social activities.

Business

There are many small businesses within the village including a Post Office/village store, a pub, a concrete batching firm and many farms, amongst others.

There is a need to explore job and employment prospects realistically. Possible avenues may revolve around the development of agricultural and tourist areas, possibly linking to the New Environmental Economy and the Peak District Environmental Quality Mark initiatives.



The community is keen to support and develop local businesses and the provision of more jobs should be encouraged.

Housing

The Consultation Group unanimously agreed that housing should be a local issue and that big building companies should not be allowed to railroad the local community into inappropriate housing in inappropriate areas. The people of the village should determine local housing needs and Peak Park have already identified suitable sites for any future housing needs. Issues which need to be addressed when any permission for housing is sought are as follows:

- The Parish Council to better publicise future applications for building plans or change of use of an existing building, through the Village Newsletter, Village Notice Boards and on the proposed village website.
- Full consultation with residents on any potential plans.
- Look to establish partnerships with a Housing Association for shared ownership homes to keep house prices low and affordable for local people in perpetuity.
- Consider S.106 Agreements which restrict sale of property to anyone who is not local to the Parish.
- Lobby Council to insist on full Council Tax on second homes in the village.
- Survey the Parish for housing need.

If the Peak District National Park Authority have not specifically identified 'suitable sites for any future housing need' within the parish, choosing to respond to applications individually, then possibly a more proactive stance, but very controversial, could be taken through the Village Plan to suggest possible sites.